

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) on Friday voted with colleagues in the House to pass the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which will fund the U.S. Department of Energy and the Corps of Engineers for fiscal year 2010. The House version of the bill includes three local water projects.

"Here on the Central Coast we know just how devastating floods can be, and it's the obligation of the federal government to make sure our communities are protected," Rep. Farr said. "This bill moves us forward on two vital water control projects as well as an important water recycling project in Watsonville."

Local projects included in the bill:

- Pajaro River Flood Control Project: \$1 million. These funds for a project on the lower Pajaro River and Corralitos and Salsipuedes creeks will go toward pre-construction engineering and design work.
- San Lorenzo River Flood Control Project: \$500,000. These funds will be directed toward completion of project modifications on an authorized flood control levee project that will provide 100-year flood protection to the region. citizens of that area. This is a valid use of taxpayer funds because it will help prevent future flooding.
- Watsonville Area Water Recycling Project: \$100,000. Watsonville is one of California's most important agriculture centers, but over-drafting of the ground water basin has led to sea water intrusion, forcing many wells to be abandoned. These funds are for project construction.

In addition to these local projects, the legislation includes a wide range of other vital programs including:

- \$2.25 billion to increase investments in technologies that use energy more effectively and produce clean, inexpensive energy from domestic sources.
- \$4.9 billion for scientific research to address long-term energy needs including basic energy sciences and applied research.
- \$5.5 billion to address the nation's water resource investment needs.
- \$208 million to modernize and secure the nation's electricity grid.

The bill, which passed by a vote of 320-97, awaits Senate consideration. Once the Senate acts, the two versions will be reconciled, then sent to the president for signature.

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